

## 7. SITE-FIDELITY TO THE UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF BRAHMINY KITE *HALIASTUR INDUS* (BODDAERT)

Site-fidelity to the wintering and breeding sites have been well established in migratory water-bird species. At Point Calimere the brahminy kite's *Haliastur indus* resident population is augmented by seasonal migrants. As the peak population coincides with the breeding season, a portion of the migrants can be called as breeding migrants to Point Calimere. The unusual nesting site of brahminy kite on the ground at Point Calimere was reported by Morrison *et al.* (1992, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 89: 117-118). The above nest with two eggs was located under a *Prosopis chilensis* cover, and later the eggs were predated. Then the *P. chilensis* bush (ground) was cleared by Chemical and Plastics India Limited (Chemplast) company while repairing the reservoir bund. During 1991 also in the same site (the *P. chilensis* had grown to one metre height) the brahminy kite (probably the same) built the nest and laid two eggs which were also later preyed upon. This observation was again done by two of the three observers (S. Balachandran and Lima Rosalind).

Again in 1992, a nest with two eggs was noticed on 22nd February about 20 m away from the old nest site. As there is no trace of *P. chilensis* growth in the same site, they nested in a partially dried *Suaeda* bush about 40 cm height from the ground. The bush was covered with dried twigs of *P. chilensis* and *Suaeda*, and lined with small pieces of dried mud. As no other nest was observed on the ground at Point Calimere, the breeding pair may be the same one showing strong fidelity to their nesting site. In spite of the predation twice in three breeding seasons. The reason for preferring this unusual site is not clear.

May 7, 1992 S. BALACHANDRAN  
*Bombay Natural History Society,*  
*Hornbill House, Shaheed Bhagat Singh Road,*  
*Bombay 400 023.*

R. SAKTHIVEL

*Department of Wildlife Biology,*  
*A.V.C. College, Mannampandal,*  
*Mayiladuthurai, Tamil Nadu.*

## 8. ADDITIONS TO THE BIRDS OF ASSAM: WHITE-TAILED SEA EAGLE AND LARGE SAND PLOVER

**Whitetailed Sea Eagle** (*Haliaeetus albicilla* Linnaeus)

On 8th February, 1990 while surveying the *chapories* (sandy islets and tracts) off Matmora in Lakhimpur district of Assam, I saw a large dark brown eagle. However, four goosander or common merganser (*Mergus merganser*) on the shingle banks of a small sandy islet diverted my attention for some time. When the goosanders left the area, because of my presence I concentrated on the eagle which was then soaring overhead. The most interesting feature I noticed was its wholly white tail. To view it closer I used a pair of 20 x binocular, and focused on its white tail.

The wings were dark brown from below with head and upper breast lighter (light yellowish brown as seen in bright sunlight). The size of the

bird was about that of Pallas's Fishing Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucorhynchus*). Later on I again saw the bird in flight when I tried to photograph it (without success). It was undoubtedly a Whitetailed Sea Eagle (*Haliaeetus albicilla* Linnaeus), and happens to be the first record as for NE India -- in fact, east of Nepal.

**Large Sand Plover** (*Charadrius leschenaultii* Lesson)

On 28th January, 1990 one was spotted on the border of Lakhimpur and Jorhat districts. Inland records in the Indian subcontinent are possibly of passage migrants only. The status of the bird in Assam remains to be determined.

February 28, 1992 ANWARUDDIN  
CHOUDHURY  
*Near Gate No. 1 of Nehru Stadium, Islampur Road,*  
*Guwahati 781 007, Assam.*